

REPORT TO: Standards Committee

DATE: 19th November 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Standards Board Information Roundup

WARDS N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To bring Members of the Committee up to date with the latest news from the Standards Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A copy of Bulletin 40, released since the last meeting of the Committee, is attached at Appendix 1. In particular, Members' attention is brought to:

(a) the analysis of the first quarter of local case handling; and

(b) consultation on the adjournment of local assessment decisions.

3.2 In respect of (b), the consultation related to the option of Standards Committees to refer a case to the monitoring officer of the authority concerned. If this option was chosen, the Committee could give directions to the monitoring officer about how to deal with the case under Section 66(6) of the Local Government Act 2000, either by way of a direction to investigate it or to take other action. However, if a case was referred for action other than investigation it could not subsequently be investigated. Therefore, some Standards Committees have been reluctant to direct the monitoring officer to deal with a case by way of other action when they may not know enough about the circumstances of the case.

3.3 Two options were outlined in the consultation, with concerns and advantages highlighted. The Standards Board has advised that an analysis on the consultation feedback will be in the next bulletin, which will be presented to the Committee in due course.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** – None.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** – None.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – None.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – None.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 No key issues have been identified which require control measures.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.